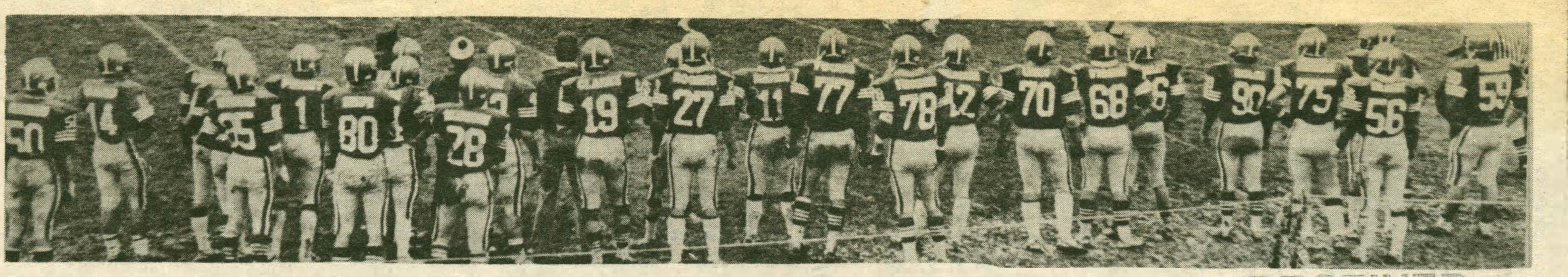

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The Hamilton College Spectator
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New drinking age to bring new rules to Hill

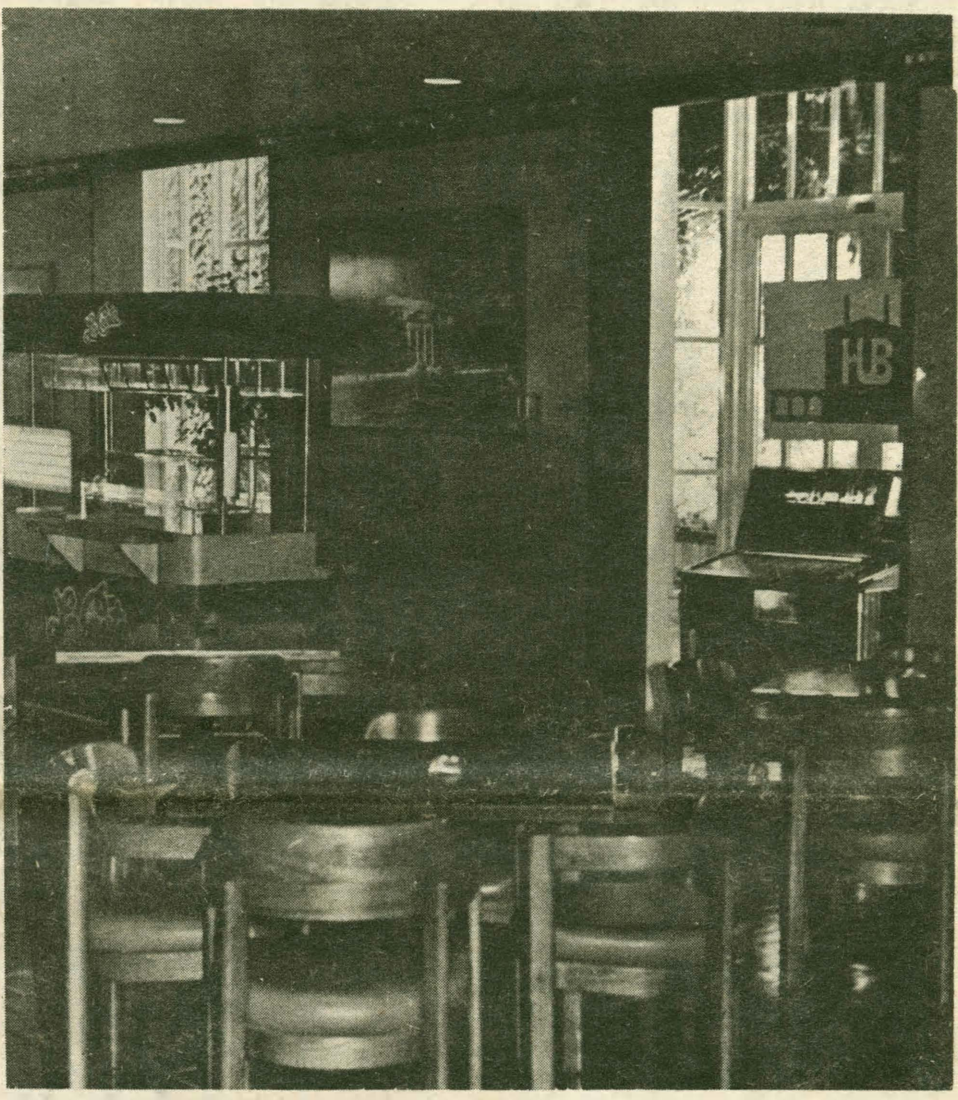

photo / Ken Allen

Wednesday-night-live performer plays to sparse crowd at Bristol earlier this week. The event marked the first time the HUB has been open since removal of the bar during the summer.

by Andrew O. McKee

Hamilton College drinkers are encountering a variety of new rules and regulations that are in preparation for the new drinking law scheduled to go into effect on December first--a law that will leave only 26 percent of the student body legal to drink.

The age distribution of the student body as of December 1st paints a startling picture: -74 percent of all students will be under 21. The college as a whole--including fraternaties, sororities, as well as the Administration and Inter-Dormitory Council--have begun to address the issue with social policy revisions and structural modifications.

The most striking change is the removal of the bar in the Bristol Campus Center, historically a mecca of on-campus drinking and socializing. Now, tap beer will no longer be served; bottled beer will be available for those few who will be of legal drinking age in December.

The HUB, on Bristol's first floor, is striving to provide an atmosphere that, while not revolving around the consumption of alcohol, is conducive to a "healthy social life." Modifications will include a different, more diverse menue and a few changes in entertainment.

Phil Testa, new Hub Manager, doesn't believe that the new changes will be enough to deter students from drinking illegally. "When you have to compete against beer, you can't just use food, you need something more." Testa believes that more money is necessary to improve facilities in Bristol so that students will find it an attractive option which doesn't have to focus on the consumption of alcohol. "A new VCR with a big screen TV along with feature films would provide an attractive alternative. Maybe a new stereo as well," said Testa.

"We need an alternative to people sitting in their rooms, drinking with the same 10 friends all year long. People want to socialize" said Sharon McMullen, departing manager of the HUB.

But college policy towards the new law is not passive; active measures are being taken to prevent minors from drinking, although "the college is not a law enforcement agency...and must act in accordance with the law."

New policies have been drawn, including the regulation that no college funds may be used for alcohol; beer trucks are a thing of the past; Inter-Dormitory Council parties and all program board events will be dry. Residence hall parties will be monitored closely to insure party-throwers are aware of their liabilities as servers of alcohol. Students throwing an *un*registered party large enough to affect other residents in the dormitory will

(continued on page 3)

Campus face lift to alter scene

by Kanchalee Svetvilas

Major renovations are underway all over campus. Most visible, a new intercollegiate field and an all-weather track are in the process of being built now between the Steuben Field and Griffin Road.

The field is mainly going to be used for soccer and lacrosse. Instead of using a natural grass surface, the field is going to be made of a sand-filled artificial turf. Mr. O'Leary, Vice President of Administration and Finance, argues that the field has "greater flexibility" than grass turf because it provides more playing time for athletic teams: they will be able to play later in the fall and earlier in the spring because it will not be so quickly worn. The placement of the artificial turf will begin the last week of September, and it will be completed at the end of October. By this spring the field will be ready for use. Three new intramural fields are also being built beside the new intercollegiate field. These fields will have a natural turf and could be in use by autumn of next year.

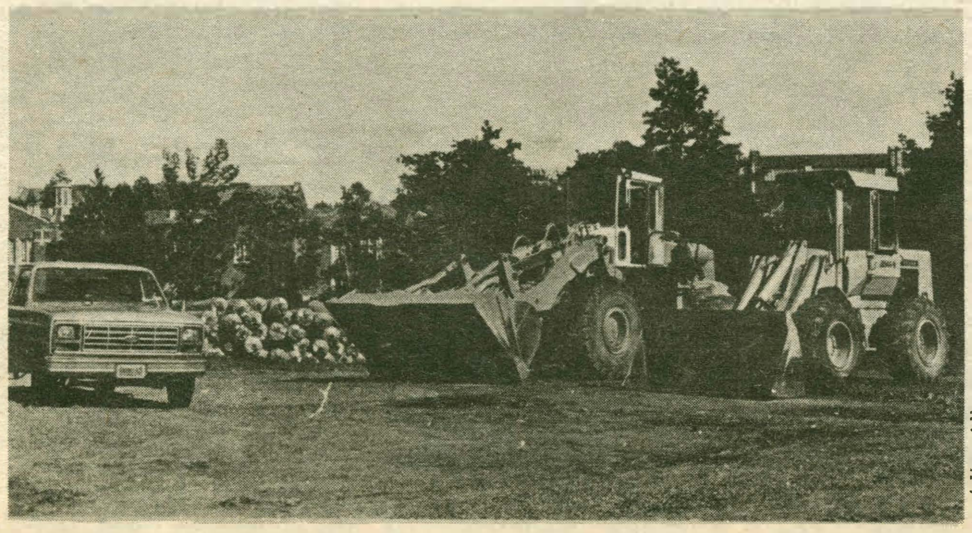

photo / Ken Allen

Earth-moving equipment reposes at site of all-weather track and playing field

The much-discussed reconstruction of the swimming pool is to be started in the spring of 1987, and it will be finished in the fall of 1988. Instead of building an entirely new pool on another site, the original pool will simply be rebuilt and replaced by a new one larger than before.

Another place undergoing renovations is Bristol Campus Center. The bar has been removed as "initial response to the changing New York law on the drinking age," remarked Mr. Wertz, director of Bristol Campus Center. To replace this, a snack bar called "Changing Scenes" and a deli are being installed. "Initially, Changing Scenes will emphasize desserts such as ice cream, pastries and beverages," said Mr. Wertz. This idea originated with ARA Food Services and will permit the menu to change from time to time.

Both the deli and Changing Scenes will begin operating September 16 followed by a series of grand opening events on September 18 and 19. There will be live entertainment and some prizes given away. There are plans to make the Hub an entertainment center by sponsoring live programs on two nights: Wednesday and Thursday. It will be a continuation of Wednesday Night Live featuring disc jockeys and different musical themes.

A student group called the Bristol Campus Center Advisory Committee is being formed. It will be composed of the director of the food services, director of Bristol, someone from the Business Office and students appointed by the Student Assembly.

The parking lot behind Bristol has also been changed. Students can no longer park there because it is going to be used for faculty and official visitors who are staying overnight.

The biology department is having a number of renovations made. The genetics teaching lab and research lab is being updated. The work will start this semester and end during spring term. Two walk-in growth chambers for plants and animals are being installed. In addition, new equipment for teaching and research labs is being set up for Professor Render, a zoologist, and Professor Garrett, a geneticist. A new lab for radioactive research and a room for students on independent study are being built. Also, a new

(continued on page 3)

LSAT, MCAT, and GRE advise

by Adam Robinson

In this era of increased school costs and federal cutback, graduate schools have never been more competitive. Each year some 250,000 students take the GREs, 180,000 the GMAT, 100,000 the LSAT, and 45,000 the MCAT.

For better or worse, standardized tests weigh as heavily among the admissions factors to graduate and professional schools as do your grades. Even Johns Hopkins Medical School, which recently dropped the MCAT as a requirement, does not prohibit applicants from submitting high GMAT scores.

Everyone knows how crucial these tests are, but what's the best way to prepare for them?

If we compare standardized tests to crossword puzzles, we can extract several useful insights. Ostensibly, crossword puzzles test your knowledge of vocabulary and trivia. Devotees, however, know that on a more profound level a given puzzle tests your knowledge of its author's propensities, among other things.

For example, if you knew that the author of *The New York Times* crossword was given to gerunds, let's say, then the seven letter word ?-?-?-i-?-?-? is more likely ?-?-?-ing than ?-?-?-i-o-n. We observe that this clue depended upon our knowing something about the person who composed the crossword, the bias of this particular author would not help us on *The London Times* crossword. Indeed, such knowledge might even mislead us if that author avoided gerunds.

Similarly, while the MCAT, LSAT, GMAT, and GREs all test what you know about particular subjects, their respective authors betray subtle tendencies that provide savvy test-takers with powerful leverage. Further clues can be utilized once you know something about how these tests are actually constructed, and once you know the structural limitations inherent in question formats.

The only way to become truly proficient at a given standardized test is to take numerous ACTUAL exams. Facsimile exams are insufficient.

We have established that the only way to grasp the nuances of the GMAT, say, is to do numerous actual GMATs. Fortunately, you can obtain previous exams from the test publishers (information provided at the end of this article).

So although test preparation books and courses claim to be "just like the real thing", their similarity is in appearance only. Furthermore, many of the techniques and much of the advice proferred by such books and courses is inane, if not downright dubious. Of what possible use are such mistaken dictums as "Always go with your first hunch," or such platitudes as "Be sure to get a good night's sleep before the test?" One wonders what opinion the peddlers of such advice must have of their audience.

Having acquainted yourself with the nuances of the test and the unwitting idiosyncracies of its authors, the battle is only half over. It is not enough to be a good tester--you must also test well. Somehow you must have the presence of mind during the pressure of the exam to mobilize what you know efficiently, accurately, and rapidly.

In organizational theory one comes across the Peter Principle. In sum, it states that in any large corporation, individuals are eventually promoted to their level of taking standardized tests. Through items of increasing difficulty, thousands of testers reach their level of incompetence as they are strewn out along a bell curve of scores.

Thus, although test publishers issue the consolatory caveat "No one is expected to finish," a more honest declaration would be "We have made it *impossible* for anyone to finish." Of course, you could finish, but not without errors. And if you *strive* to finish, your errors will be numerous still. Obviously, you want to move as quickly as possible, but as I stated earlier, as quickly as possible without sacrificing accuracy. Like the race car driver, you must learn how fast you individually can afford to take the various questions and curves of the test. And again, you must take actual exams to establish your ideal pace (which will vary with the type of question.)

Your performance, however, is not determined solely by your grace under pressure, but also by what you know. By perusing enough actual exams, you'll get a pretty good idea of what you're expected to know. Undoubtedly, however, you will encounter questions beyond your grasp. Remember, the test is designed that way.

Unfortunately, most students "lose it" when they arrive at their level of incompetence. Some rush carelessly through the easier questions they might have aced had they "sacrificed" some of the harder ones at the end. Others begin to fill in blanks randomly. Or worse, they go with their first hunches. (Going with their first hunches beyond your level of incompetence is just about the worst thing you can do. I wish I had sufficient space in this brief article to demonstrate this crucial maxim.)

So you must discover, acknowledge, and *accept* the limits imposed by your level of incompetence. Having reached that limit on a given section, what should you do?

Statistically, guessing *never* hurts, and of course it helps on tests with no penalty for mistakes (some students labor under the misapprehension that some tests penalize guessing. No test penalizes guessing. Beware: the distinction between mistakes and guessing is not merely semantic.)

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Construction to expand classrooms, fields

Hans H. Schambach '43 and College President J. Martin Carovano break ground for the planned Hans Schambach Performing Arts Center. The Center, which will be situated behind McEwen and the List Art Center, was dedicated at REunion Weekend last June.

(continued from page 1)
computer room for the Biology Department has been completed.

The Geology Department has been in the process of major "face lifting" for the past seven years. Five labs were completely renovated and the entrance hall of the science building was remodeled with better lighting and brightened walls. This summer a geology computer room was built and a wave tank was added to an experimental lab.

Another department that has been renovated is the Psychology Department. A large room used for students' experiments was divided into three small rooms so that each student could have his or her own space. Dr. Vaughan, the chair of the Psychology Department, felt that this used space more effectively and made it more available for student research. The changes began last summer and were finished this summer. The rooms can be used for experiments on animal behavior and cognitive behavior. The labs were remodeled with new furniture, a ceiling change, new tiles and better lighting.

In Kirner-Johnson more faculty offices were built on the first floor in the L-shaped lounge. Architects were concerned with retaining the original appearance of the building. Because of this, the newer offices do not alter the original design of the building.

The Homestead, formerly occupied by the Music Department, is being renovated for Communications and Development. A new electrical and heating system is being built this fall to be completed by February or March.

The Music Department has been temporarily housed in Silliman, which has been renovated for this purpose. They will be in Silliman until the center for music and the performing arts is completed. The center will be located between McEwen and List. An auditorium, rehearsal hall, classrooms, offices and a music library are going to be built. The hall is mainly being built for music and dance, although it can be used for theater and travelling shows. Construction for the center will start in the spring of '86 and finish in the fall of '87.

For students and faculty a completely new telephone system is being installed. The Stryker side of campus was recabled and a new telecommunications switch was installed. The changeover to the new telephone system is scheduled for September 20.

Besides the major renovations, the electrical distribution system was replaced in Dunham, Benedict, the Health Center and Commons over the summer. The sewer system was also replaced from Kirkland campus to the Homestead and into Commons. Mr. O'Leary said, "this is all a part of ongoing improvements."

Alumni giving wins award

Hamilton College, because of its performance in the area of alumni giving, has been selected as the Grand Award winner in the Sustained Performance Category among all colleges and universities in the country by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the U.S. Steel Foundation. "Credit for this outstanding achievement," said College President J. Martin Carovano, "goes to Peter B. Whitcombe, Class of 1954, and Milton J. Walters, Class of 1964, who have served as Hamilton's Annual Fund chairmen for the past four years, and thousands of volunteers, without whom this would not have been possible."

Hamilton College's modern Alumni Fund was established in 1937. In the almost fifty years of its existence, it has recorded consistently high levels of participation. The College grew in gradual stages from a student body of 400 in 1940 to one of 1,000 in 1978. When Hamilton became coeducational in 1978, the size of each graduating class nearly doubled. Despite the enlargement, Hamilton has maintained its participation rates of 50-55 percent, and Alumni Fund dollar totals have continued to grow.

Since 1978/79 total dollars from alumni have risen from $424,000 to $1,123,000 in 1983/84. At the same time, participation has also risen, reaching 60 percent last year. Over 1,000 men and women--11 percent of the alumni body--serve as Free Agents, Phone-a-thon volunteers, Class Agents and Reunion Gift Committee members.

To date, 1984/85 Alumni Fund dollar totals have reached $1,347,000, and pledges have been received from over 60 percent of Hamilton's alumni. The 1984/85 college year will officially end June 30.

The CASE/U.S. Steel Alumni Giving Incentive Awards have annually recognized distinguished achievement in annual giving since 1959. Out of approximately 1,600 colleges, universities and schools, 400 institutions were evaluated in the final round of judging. Of these, 44 institutions will receive awards.

New drinking age to effect social life

(continued from page 1)
be fined $50.00 per keg for non-compliance.

What are the liabilities? There are criminal and civil laws which have different definitions of what exactly the crime is, but both agree on one key point:*it is not the minor who is liable.* "Persons under 21 are viewed as children in the eyes of the law," said Jean Jervis "and children are not responsible for their own actions." It is the *provider* of alcohol who bears responsibility for the actions of persons served.

Criminal law states that a minor breaks the when falsely representing his or her age. This same law penalizes the provider of alcohol in the same manner; even if deceived by "false identification," the server is still liable and may face criminal prosecution. Civil law denotes server responsibility for the damages and injuries caused by an intoxicated person.

These restrictions will play an interesting role in the future of fraternity parties where alcohol is often the sole attraction. Says Dean Jervis: "If fraternities are not just drinking clubs -- and actually promote the qualities of brotherhood and responsibility that they say they do--then it will come out in the near future." The college policy toward fraternities on the drinking issue will be analogous to that seen in recent years regarding the sale and use of drugs on campus.

"When the abuse of the law becomes flagrant, we [the administration] have to act," said Jervise. While "not a law enforcement agency," the college cannot violate the law; when the abuse of a law becomes public, the college (like an individual) becomes an accomplice and must "act accordingly."

photo / Ken Allen

President of the Inter-greek Council, Philip Smyth '87, sees a "dry world for freshmen and underclass students." While "frats will be viewed by many as a place that's easiest to get a drink," fraternities and sororities will have to "go to a dry rush" and apply a much "stricter attitude all around."

But Smythe, and others, believe that the new law is the reflection of a social trend: "Its not just the new age, its the strictness of the *issue* of drinking. You see it all around."

Fraternity, sorority and smaller private parties, as they are "difficult to police," according to Smyth, "will add life to the campus, especially with dry IDC parties as the alternative."

Computer Center expands with 18 MACs

by T.A.Kuck

Among the several changes that ocurred at Hamilton over the summer, perhaps the most significant took place in the quiet basement of stately Burke Library. Here, in the Computer Science Center, have been placed eighteen new Macintosh personal computers. The latest in information manipulation, they were purchased by the school to supplement the existing computer facilities, which included a dozen or so other personal computers and the Terak terminals, which are connected to a main computer at Cornell. That their arrival on campus will influence "life on the Hill" is of no doubt. The questions are: for whom? how? and in what areas of learning?

Anne Ludington, head of the Math and Computer Science Department, discussed the acquisition of the Apple Macintoshes in a recent interview with *The Spectator*. "My main reason for purchasing these machines," she said, "is for instruction. We will certainly use them in the introductory courses, 141 and 242." Macintosh Pascal, the subject of Computer Science 141, is "a very good first language" according to the professor. She added, "Once you know one language it's very easy to learn another." Ms. Ludington also envisions the use of the new computers in math courses, predicting, for example, that "instead of using a statistical program on the Cornell computer, we'll use one on the Macintosh." Professor Ludington's plans for the future include "working toward offering a concentration in computer science within a couple of years." As head of the department, she is "appreciative of the fact that the administration is supportive" of the Macintosh program and the department in general. When asked about their word processing capabilities, she glanced at the Macintosh on her office desk, saying, "I used to always write things out longhand, often several drafts. At times, I'd even cut out parts and paste them together before handing them to my secretary. Now I do almost all my work on the Macintosh."

Frank Price, Hamilton's Academic Computer Coordinator and a fervent Macintosh aficionado, has one of the new machines on his desk as well. He firmly believes that "the Macintosh can be used as a practical tool for something by almost everyone." He predicts that their major use on campus will be word processing, a prediction he supports with the observation that "most of what we do here at Hamilton is process words." He suggests that besides programming and word processing, the Macs can perform many other less obvious functions. He sums up the beauty of the new computers with the statement that, "for the first time we have a computer that is powerful enough and versatile enough for everyone to use."

With all the eagerness of a child on Christmas morning, he flicked on the power switch and proceeded to demonstrate one of the new computers. It seems that the people at Apple have given each computing function a small picture, or "icon." For example, to "paint" on the screen one merely chooses the picture of a paint brush. To save information, one chooses the icon of a manila folder; to throw out such a file there's a waste paper basket icon. To choose an icon, one merely slides a small control box called a mouse across the desk. This causes a small pointer to move across the screen and specify the icon of interest. The Macintosh also incorporates several "desk accessories" into its system, such as a computerized note pad, calendar, and pocket calculator. Each desk accessory 13 denoted with a fitting icon, of course. Mr. Price prefers this system to typed commands on the grounds that "most people think graphically. You don't have to memorize arcane commands; it's all there before you."

Mr. Price estimates that he has received close to a hundred inquiries from students wishing to purchase Macs. He expects to sell fifty or sixty before it's all over. There are significant discounts as the school passes on its bulk rate. For a standard Macintosh (128K keyboard system, 1 disk drive; MacWrite and MacPaint software), the list price is $2,195. For a Hamilton student it is $1,430. Interested students should contact the computer center.

Student reactions to the arrival of the new computers have been generally favorable. Michelle Paninos, who describes herself as "an English major with plenty of papers to write," calls MacWrite "the only word processor on campus worth using." According to Paninos, the charm of the Mac is that "you don't have to learn commands, you just move a little pointer around." She added vehemently, "I refuse to talk to a computer in its own language." Panayiotis Papachiou, one of the computer center's resident experts and a contented owner of a Macintosh, claims to be able to "do programming on it, file management, directories, *anything*." Another student listened attentively to his Macintosh as it played a decent (if slightly atonal) version of a Tchaikovskv masterpiece on its built-in music synthesizer.

There are some dissenters, however. Rich Sargent, another of the computer center's student operators and an avid fan of IBM computers, stated unequivocally that "The Macintosh is one of the greatest toys Hamilton College has ever bought for its students." He continued by stating, "The Mac is the easiest to learn for your first one to two page paper. But anything longer will drive people back to their typewriters." His suggestion? Buy an IBM, of course.

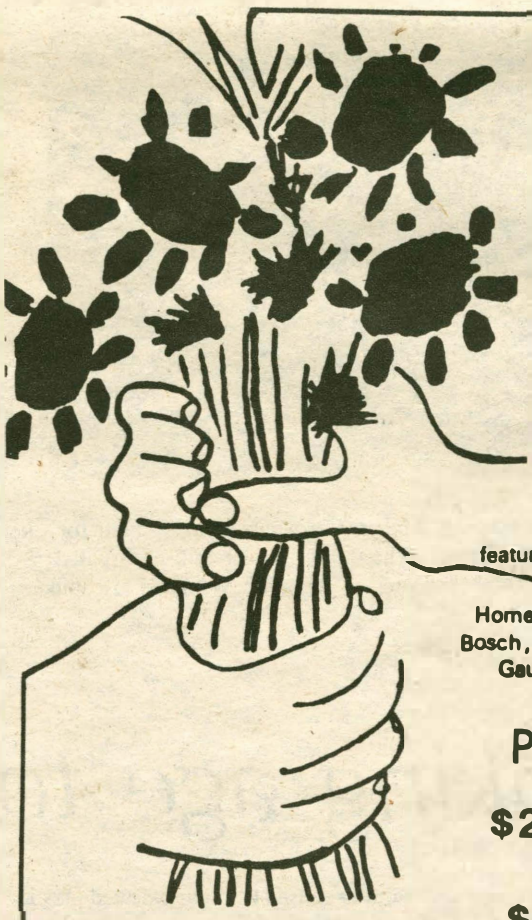
ELECTIONS

Thursday, October 3rd

Positions available:

1 Senior J-Board Rep.
1 Senior Honor Court
1 Senior Fund Raiser
1 Junior Student Assembly Rep.
4 Freshman Student Assemble Reps
1 Freshman J-Board Rep.
1 Freshman Honor-Court Rep.

Petitions Available at Bristol Monday Sept. 16
Deadline Monday Sept. 23



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Outdoor program impresses first year student

The following personal account of Hamilton's new "Adirondack Adventure" program was written by a first year student who participated in this pre-orientation program.

By Rachel Antell

As I peered over the edge of the 60 foot high water tower, down to the 49 indistinguishable faces below, I counted the various things I'd rather be doing than rapelling down to the ground: standing naked and wet in a snowstorm came to mind. "Step back onto the ledge" the rapelling instructor said in a calm, measured voice.

"YOU step back onto the ledge!" I shrieked, clutching her arm.

After a few minutes of calming reassurance, I finally realized that the only other way down was the ladder I'd just climbed up, and, all things considered, that was probably more dangerous. So, I leaned back, held my breath, and began the long descent down to the ground.

Once safely on my feet again, I was greeted by the cheers of the 49 first year students I'd met two days before. "We were taking bets as to whether or not you'd actually do it!" one of the people said. Just two days earlier, I couldn't have imagined myself doing it either. It was all part of a pre-orientation program for first year students called the Adirondack Adventure, which brought 50 strangers together to become a close-knit group of friends with a new sort of courage.

The program began on August 27th in the Bundy Field House. Upon peering around the group of 49 strange faces, I wondered how I'd ever get to know them all. After approximately 42 variations of "the name-game," however, everyone began to seem familiar. After one hard night spent on squash court floors, my companions and I headed out to Camp Huntington (affiliated with SUNY Cortland) on Racquette Lake. The camp is a very rustic and beautiful one, well-preserved and accessible only by ferry boat.

The experimental program, in its first year, was developed and directed by Geri Knortz, assistant professor of Physical Education. Her goal was for the first year students to overcome some of their anxieties about college, and to discover new physical and emotional capabilities. Knortz was assisted in her direction by other faculty members and upperclass students in the Outing Club. All of these people soon crossed over the line from "authority figure" to "trusted friend."

Nevertheless, everyone still had their doubts about this "adventure." Since no one knew exactly what it involved, the fear of bears, rattlesnakes, and becoming "temporarily confused" (i.e. lost hopelessly and forever in the woods) was beginning to creep up on all of us. We launched right into activities the first day under overcast skies, with instruction in wilderness orientation, paddling lessons, and a "canoe tip-test." The test involved paddling out a short distance into the lake, tipping yourself and the boat into the freezing water, and returning it to its normal position. Needless to say, in 60° weather, the test, in its preparation for an overnight canoe trip later in the program, was less than a pleasant one. We were all proud of Ann Rassmussen when she reported back to those of us waiting on the dock that "the water was frigid, but I was tough...hey, I even got my hair wet!"

Among the many highlights of the program were the organized conversations in which the faculty and Outing Club members came up with a number of topics to be discussed so that we participants could better understand ourselves and our experiences. We discussed our values and goals for the future, and our hopes for possible "SLUMBER PARTIES!" later on in the trip. We made campfires at night, and spent endless hours making human knots, telling BAD jokes, playing (would you believe) "duck-duck-goose," and singing old tunes (*very* off-key Harry Biscarr'89 felt that "Some of the discussions were great for getting people to reveal their 'inner-person'."

One of the goals of the program was for the participants to be able to completely trust their companions, and work efficiently as a group. The first step in reaching that goal was called the "low ropes course," which is very similiar to Project GAIN held in the Root Glen. We broke up into groups of ten people in order to do the course. Emily Church '89 felt that "The low ropes course was an excellent one for learning to trust others. We were put in situations in which we had to completely rely on the other group members. Through this we experienced a new, closer type of bond." One activity which most emphasized this aspect of trust was the deceptively named "trust fall," where the participant jumps off a four foot platform into the arms of the rest of the group. The other activities involved resolving problems together, listening to others' ideas, and working as a group. Some of the most difficult challenges faced by the group were removing a tire from a 15 foot pole, having the whole team scale a wall, and getting us all across a marsh with the use only of five tire swings.

One of the next activities, and for many people the highlight of the trip, was the "high ropes" course. This was a treacherous challenge, and the trust that we'd built on the low ropes course became truly important. High ropes were done on belay, a system of a belt and pulley, often used for safety by mountain or rock climbers. Since the participant is on belay, and wearing a crash helmet, there is no **actual** danger. But when someone is 30 feet in the air, walking on a thin wire, or standing on a pole and jumping to catch a trapeze, it's difficult to give rational thought a chance. The high ropes worked mainly on overcoming personal fears with such hair-raising activities as walking across a log 30 feet in the air, or climbing straight up a tree. Most people thought they'd never be willing to attempt any of the challenges, but the incredible part of "Adirondack Adventure" was that everything was worked up to slowly till previous "impossibilities" became possible. "We started out with discussions, and worked our way from low to high ropes, at which point people were attempting activities they wouldn't normally dream of," says Drew Adair. Another "Adventurer," Christine Linkmark, explained "Not only did I explore my physical capabilities (on low and high ropes) I also discovered an indescribable bond with the people on the trip!"

The trip ended with an overnight canoe trip. We divided into groups of ten students and three faculty or outing club members, paddled in our canoes to various campsites around the lake, and pitched tents. The trip gave everyone a chance to exercise their culinary skills, as we cooked powdered gourmet meals, consisting of turkey-noodle casserole, and trick instant pudding, which (although impossible to ruin) came out the consistency of cake batter.

The following day, most of us were too exhausted to do much canoeing, and were content with just drifting lazily back to Camp Huntington, for our last night on the expedition. We spent our last evening around a bonfire singing, reminiscing about the experiences we'd shared, and marvelling over how close we'd become in just six short days. Although excited to return to music, clean clothes, beer and other aspects of civilization we'd grown to miss, everyone I'd encountered seemed sad to be leaving.

By the end of the trip, almost all of my anxieties about college had subsided; and as Andrew Paul explained, "It provided a foundation to be expanded upon once we arrived at school." Other "Adventurers" who I spoke to agreed enthusiastically that the program should be continued in future years, and Tara Shannon summed it up perfectly when she advised that "Next year's freshmen shouldn't be scared to particpate in the Adirondack Adventure. It was too good an experience, and too much fun to worry about!"

Testing, testing 1,2,3

statistical gains that guessing affords. For example, one section of the LSAT is amenable to a particular guessing rule that locates virtually half the answers, instantly! No kidding. Or take the MCAT sections where the binomial expansion predicts the questions where one letter has double the odds of any other! And similar rules, more or less powerful, abound on each and every section of each and every test on the market.

So when you've reached your level of incompetence and don't have the knowledge to finish a question or the time to finish a section, no problem. You just engage the cruise control with the applicable strategy and in some cases rack up twice the number of correct answers you'd otherwise have accumulated.

If you scrutinize enough actual exams, you'll uncover many of these strategies on your own.

This is not to suggest that excelling on the graduate boards requires statistical voodoo and esoteric techniques.

On the other hand it is to suggest that anyone employing these techniques has a powerful advantage over his or her less prepared peers.

O.K., let's get down to business. What sort of improvement can you expect, and should you shell out for a course?

As a rule of thumb, a motivated student can expect improvement on the order of 5 to 20 percent, and gains of 30 to 40 percent and more are not unheard of. Potential improvement depends on your starting level and on what you can glean from actual exams.

If you decide to go it alone, you should buy some sort of preparation book as a supplement to the actual exams you've obtained. Although as I made clear earlier that I have major reservations about the guides currently on the market, some books are substantially better than others. None of them is great, but as a minimum requisite I suggest you look at the author's bio to establish whether he has taught students. Even that's no guarantee.

What about courses? Obviously cost is a major factor. Quality is another. Talk to friends who've taken the course and ask them what they think. They might even be able to teach you what they know. If you have a knack for standardized tests, you probably don't need a course in light of the previous discussion. If you don't have a knack, start preparation on your own. That way you'll be in position to judge what the course can add to your own efforts.

When should your preparation begin? Again as a rule of thumb, let's say three months before the test. If you're taking the MCAT or GREs, which require specific knowledge (chemistry, vocabulary), you should take a peek at an actual exam as soon as possible to see what you should be covering. Obviously, if you're a basket case with numbers and planning to take the GMAT, you might want to start earlier. But three months should give most students enough time to learn and master the tests and have confidence in their techniques. If you start too far in advance, you may lose your edge for the test. Like the athlete aiming for the season championship, you must know when to start preparing and when to begin the taper.

Whichever route you choose, I strongly recommend that you:

1. Get your hands on old exams from the test publishers.

2. Take at least two exams timed. At least one friend should either take it with you or proctor you. Solitude is not nearly disconcerting enough.

3. Between these two endeavors, take one test with unlimited time, say a week to complete the MCAT. You should belabor each and every question; if you do this drill correctly you should be going to sleep thinking about the questions. Your aim is to see what you know, unaffected by time pressure anxiety. Ideally, your score on the timed practice sessions should approach that on the untimed test. (Paradoxically, testers with "the knack" often exceed their untimed score on the actual exam.)

4. In addition to studying your actual exams, you should be looking for patterns in your errors. For example, are your math errors more on geometry questions than on algebra questions? Clip the problems you missed from the tests you've collected and paste them up on separate sheets for each section. You'd be surprised the insights such an overview can provide.

5. The night before and the morning of the exam, review those sheets. You're not cramming at this point. The night before you're making mental notes, and the morning of you're warming up.

Now to obtain the various exams:

MCAT: The MCAT Student Manual can be obtained by sending $7 ($9 if you don't want to wait the 3 to 4 weeks it'll take) to the AAMC, Membership & Publication Orders, One Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 200, Washington D.C. 20036. This contains only one practice full-length exam.

LSAT: In what I'd call a rip-off, the LSAS charges $5 for each previous exam. Specify the dates, from June 1982 and every December, February, March, and June thereafter to the present. In addition to these you can obtain a free sample LSAT in a little guidebook with "hints." Send your check to LSAS, Box 2000, Newtown, PA. 18940.

GREs: For the general exam, two editions are available from GRE-ETS CN 6014, Princeton, New Jersey, 08541-5014. $7 each, postage is $3 for the first book, and $1 for each additonal book. The GRE information, bulletin is available free. For the specific GRE subjects, it'll cost you $6 each.

GMAT: The GMAT provides quite useful hints in their Official Guide to the GMAT. Send $9.95 ($11.95 for priority mail) to GMAT, ETS, CN 6108, Princeton, NJ 08541-6108.

And finally, if you'd like a tip-sheet of specific hints on any of these tests, send me a self-stamped, self-addressed envelope with your year and test in the upper left-hand corner to:

Adam Robinson
Suite 113
967 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Arts

The Spectator

Fall Dance Festival will open

The Concert Dance Company of Boston will be at Minor Theatre October 20.

On September 28, October 12, October 20, and November 1 the Department of Theatre and Dance is pleased to present a four week Fall Dance Festival, four weekends of dance events featuring the Concert Dance Company of Boston and performances by both past and current Hamilton dance faculty members.

The festival will begin on September 28 with a performance by the Utica Danceworks, Inc. The group is co-directed by Nancy Long and Lynn Bance Bollana with the guest appearances by New York dancers. On Saturday, October 12th, Mary Paula Hunter, formerly of the Hamilton dance faculty, will present an evening long work performed by her company, Paula Hunter and Dancers. The Concert Dance Company of Boston, a contemporary dance repertory company which has been hailed for its "humor, beauty and dexterity by Clive Barnes of the *New York Times*, will perform on campus at the Minor Theatre. The festival will conclude on November 1st with a Faculty Dance Recital. Current Hamilton dance faculty members Leslie Norton, Bruce Walczyk, and Elaine Heekin will be performing.

All four of the festival performances will begin on Saturday at 8:00 pm at the Minor Theatre. Tickets for the Utica Danceworks, Paula Hunter and Dancers, and Faculty Recital are $2.00 general admission and $1.00 for students. The tickets for the Concert Dance Company of Boston are $5.00 for general admission and $2.00 for students. Subscription tickets for all four events are $8.00 for general admission and $4.00 for students. Tickets may be reserved by calling 859-4193. Watch *The Spectator* in the coming weeks for more information about and reviews of each of the four Fall Dance Festival preformances. All performances are being sponsored by Hamilton College.

Music events scheduled for area

Opening the 1985-86 season on Friday, October 4 at 8:00 pm in the Alumni Gymnasium will be the New York Chamber Soloists. A nine-member ensemble of voices, strings, winds, and keyboard, the Chamber Soloists will give a complete performance of Handel's "Water Music" as well as three of Bach's Brandenburg Concerti. In addition to repeat engagements in the US, they have made, over the last 27 years, eight European tours, five Latin tours, and numerous tours of the Far East, South Pacific, and the United Kingdom.

On Sunday, November 10, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, under the guest direction of Varujan Kojian, will give a performance in the Alumni Gymnasium Beginning at 3:00 pm. The *Los Angeles Times* called Varujian, "a conductor of elegance, grace, and genuine distinction," following an engagement with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Maureen Forrester, recognized as the foremost contralto of our time, will also be featured. One of the greatest interpreters of the works of Gustav Mahler, she will be performing "Songs of the Wayfarer" with the Syracuse Symphony.

Rounding out the 1985 portion of the schedule will be The King's Singers, who will give a concert on Monday, December 2 at 8:00 pm in the College Chapel. Originally united at King's College, Cambridge University in England, these six male English singers have an extremely broad and diverse repetoire, which includes everything from folk music to Zulu songs to the Beatles. "The King's Singers," noted *Newsday*, "are a superbly conditioned musical group who know how to put on a good show."

On Saturday, February 22, the Prague Chamber orchestra will perform in the Alumni Gymnasium beginning at 8:00 pm. An ensemble of 36 musicians, the Orchestra plays conductorless, led only by their superb musicianship. *The New York Post* declared, "they are all maestros—with resoundingly successful, joyous results." Founded in 1951, the Prague Chamber Orchestra's well-balanced repertoire includes works ranging from the Baroque style to the latest work by contemporary composers.

Concluding the 1985-86 schedule will be the Newport Jazz Festival All-Stars, who will appear in the Alumni Gymnasium on Saturday, March 15 beginning at 8:00 pm. The group is comprised of Scott Hamilton (tenor saxophone), Oliver Jackson (drums), Slam Stewart (bass), Norris Turney (saxophone), Warren Vache (trumpet), and George Wein (piano). All accomplished jazz musicians, the All-Stars are, as the *Stamford Weekly Mail* described it, "For jazz lovers who want the best . . ."

Tickets are available on either a subscription basis (general public $25, a $20 savings, and students $10, a $10 savings) or may be purchased for individual performances. For more information, write Music at Hamilton Artists Series, Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y. 13323 or call 859-7331.

The Hamilton College and Community Oratorio Society, directed by G. Roberts Kolb, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Hamilton College, is accepting new members in anticipation of its fall concert, which will take place on Tuesday evening, November 19, 1985. On this date the Oratorio Society will join with a professional orchestra to present Mozart's *Requiem* and Brahm's *Song of Destiny*.

Membership in the Oratorio Society is open to anyone who wishes to sing; no audition is required and costs are minimal. Weekly rehearsals will be held on Sunday evenings, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Registration will take place at the first rehearsal, to be held September 15, on the top floor of Hamilton's Kirkland Dormitory (located between Burke Library and the College Chapel). For further information, write the Hamilton Music Department, Hamilton College, in Clinton 13323, or call 859-7335. Another outstanding collection of musical talent has been asembled for the ninth annual Music At Hamilton Artists Series.

Singer/songwriter James Taylor will perform with his band in concert at the Stanley Performing Arts Center in Utica, NY on Monday, October 7, 1985 at 8 pm. The concert is sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Community College Concert Board.

Taylor is known for such hits as "Fire and Rain", "You've Got a Friend", "Handy Man", "How Sweet It Is", "Carolina In My Mind", and "Her Town Too".

For this tour Taylor will be backed by Russ Kunkel—drums, Leland Sklar—bass, Billy Payne—keyboards, Dan Dugmore—guitar, Rosemary Butler and Arnold McCuller—background vocals.

Tickets go on sale Monday, September 9 in the MVCC Snack Bar at 9 am for one day only. Starting Tuesday, September 10 tickets will be available at the Stanley Performing Arts Center Box Office, The Last Unicorn in Herkimer and at all Ticketron outlets. Ticket prices—Students with valid MVCC I.D.—$13.50, General Public—$15.50. All seats reserved. To charge tickets call 315-724-4000.

For more information call 315-735-7549.

Bristol exhibits show diversity

On September 24th in the Bristol Campus Center, a special exhibition of the Frank Lyons Collection of fine prints and photographs will take place. On exhibition and sale will be original nineteeth and twentieth century graphics works from Japan, Europe, and America. The Frank Lyons Collection is based in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Frank Lyons Collection includes many various types of art. Included in the showing will be examples of 19th century etching and lithography, both contemporary and classic antique Japanese woodblocks, modern lithography, silkscreen, and intaglio, one hundred years of photography, from 1860 to 1960, and a variety of contemporary poster art.

Artists such as Bradley, Cheret, Haden, Kuniyoshi, Saito, Watanabe, and Tanaka will be represented. Photographers such as Coburn, Eugene, Halsman, Sander, and Steiglittz will also be represented in the display in addition to a host of other distinguished contemporary and 19th century artists.

The collection will be shown in an informal atmosphere, and knowledgeable reprerepresentatives will be on hand to respond to questions about the works on display. There will be more than 500 individually matted and described works on display, and everyone is encouraged to stop in and browse through. The works, which will be on display from 10:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on the 24th of September, are priced widely beginning at under ten dollars. All the proceeds of the show and sale will be contributed to the campus fund drive.

photo / Ken Allen

Comtemporary Japanese prints from the Hamilton Collection will remain on exhibition until September 30.

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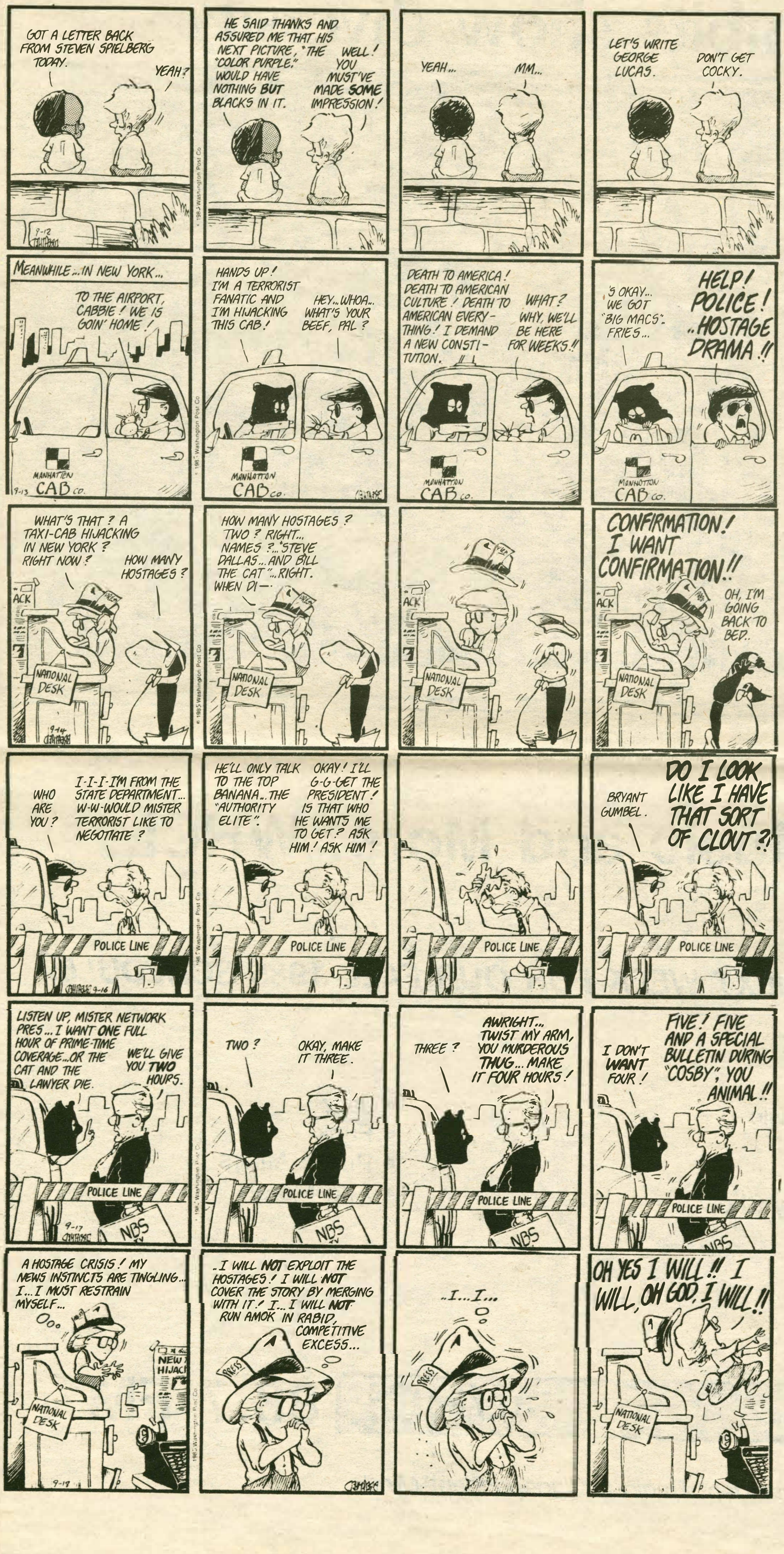

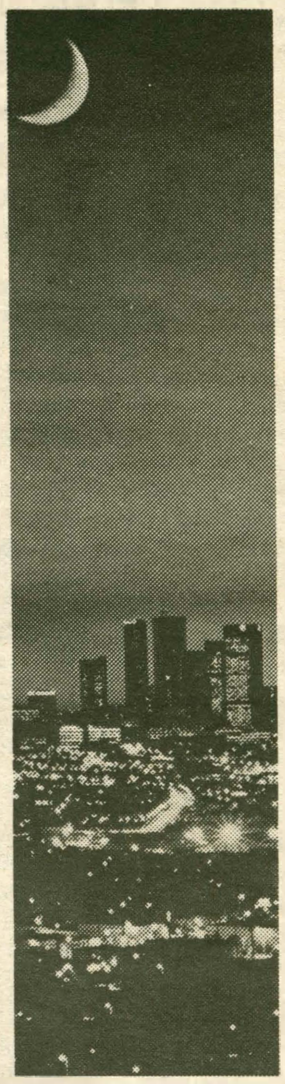

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Sports

The Spectator

Soccer: a new look

photo / Ken Allen

Wing puts nice ball on goal.

by Bob Hazelton

The 1985 Hamilton Men's Soccer team started their season on a positive note with a 5-0 preseason win over Canton last Saturday. Putting the ball in the back of the net for the Continentals were Bill Greene, Kevin Kester, Mike Hurley, Alberto Morello, and Scott Benson, while Jeff Panara added three assists. The heat and high humidity did not seem to bother the well conditioned Continentals, as they consistently took the action to Canton.

The exceptional conditioning of the team is no surprise to captains Gerry Strabley and Chris Olcott, who initiated a fitness program that has gone above and beyond any other one that the team has had in years past. In addition, Assistant Coach Dave Thompson, Hamilton's Head Swimming Coach, had the players doing laps in the pool after practice. Head Coach Manfred Von Shiller feels that the superb conditioning will greatly enhance the team's chances of a very successful season. Even Peter Rundquist, the team's "spiritual guru," confidently noted, "This may be the best preseason I've ever had."

The 1985 squad enters the season with a slightly different game plan which will include short passing in order to control the ball, brute strength on defense to intimidate the opposition's offensive game plan, and depth to keep the players fresh throughout the course of a 90 minute game.

The offense will consist of forwards Alberto Morello, Jim Burgett, and Sam Sylvester. Burgett, the team's leading scorer last year, hopes to continue to "ripple the twine." "Sly" Sylvester, a five-year senior (he was redshirted several years ago), was also a key scorer last season. Captain "Dancing Doc" Olcott, the inspirational leader who will be roaming around the middle, heads a young midfield that includes Scott Bothfeld and Tom Broderick. Bothfeld and Broderick both play a hard nosed game and will not be afraid to throw the body around.

Directing the defense will be senior goalie Stefan Englehardt, who will be starting for his third straight season. Scott Benson, Rich Fischer, and Pete "P.R" Rundquist will man the wing fullback positions. Rounding out the defense is stopper Andy Kimball and Captain and three year starter Strabley is at the all-important sweeper position.

Von Schiller and his foot soldiers appear to be physically and mentally prepared for the season opener versus SUNY Utica this Saturday at 1 pm. Please come out and support the team tomorrow and the rest of the season.

Kicking it around: John "Junior" Messersmith, sporting a lean, mean Jack LaLanne physique, may be the strongest player on the squad. Pete Rundquist has recently been mistaken for singer Corey Hart, but his "buzzcut" was actually meant to increase his speed by streamlining his head and cutting down on the wind resistance. Rumors indicate that goalie Engelhardt is experiencing recurring nightmares about the preseason run up to the Colgate Ski Hill. Senior Randy Richardson, who suffered a severe knee injury two years ago, is looking as good as ever. Two former varsity players, Bill Lake and Dave "Ozzie" Virgil can now be seen playing for a different squad. During the off-season, Phil Hills' Intramural squad lured the two talented players away from the Varsity by offering them substantial signing bonuses and performance clauses.

Sports Rap: the voice of a fan

by Chris Testa

Clinton: Greeting sports fans, or at least to you non-connoisseurs of the *Arts* section. Come on, I know there aren't 1600 of you real sports fans out there reading this column. That's alright, I only want to see a little more support for all the Continental squads in 1985-86. During my three years in this tiny metropolis, I have witnessed a surprising phenomena; despite the fact that there is less and less to do as the drinking age goes up and up, the once revered and feared Hamilton fans have dwindled to a precious few. Whereas once the average fan was loud, rabid and supportive to no end (witness the football fans of the early '80's, who had only heard about victories in the past), today the majority are silent, mellow, and faithless, waiting impatiently for a championship or an unusually rare upset (i.e. the basketball and hockey fans 1984-1985). There's more to life at a Division III school than sex, drugs, rock and roll and tooling. We have some fine programs here that provide pure unadulterated, exciting sport, and are free from arbitration, strikes, scandals, and holdouts. Maybe Hamiltonians will prove me wrong and reverse this trend towards complacency. I certainly hope so. Barring inclement weather, the football team should at least draw large crowds this season. But then again, the novelty of winning may have worn off after only one year. There is also hope for the soccer team, who enjoyed an unusually large crowd Saturday, during their scrimmage victory over Canton and their own Coach Von Schiller (I went just to see him).

Speaking of football, I'm looking forward to seeing the scrimmage versus Rochester Saturday. Unfortunately for me, I was away and missed the euphoria of last year (I did come up for one game, but it was the 7-7 tie with Wesleyan). The 1985 Continentals should display that same explosive passing offense, but with an even more effective running game. New Head Coach Steve Frank has brought with him from Princeton his own defensive philosophy of attacking the opponent's offense. This strategy should cover for the younger, less experienced defense. The respective offenses and defenses to be employed by Frank should provide for an exciting and successful season. I don't want to make any predictions, but I would have to give a slight nod to Augustana College (undefeated over the past two years) over the Continentals on the chances of getting into the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl (the Division III Championship). In order to even dream of getting that far, though, the team must be completely healthy. Questionable medical advice, bad luck, and a rough preseason training camp produced a lengthy list of injuries. As many as two of last year's starters are doubtful for the season opener next weekend at Colby. There is, of course, the possibility of back-to-back winning seasons, something that hasn't happened in a long time. Look for the pullout preview next week.

I'm sure that most people by now have seen the great wasteland behind Dunham. This mudpit is soon to be the new synthetic turf field with an accompanying track. The field will be for the soccer and lacrosse squads. Somehow I just can't imagine a team known as the Continentals playing on a synthetic field. I also could not see how our Deathball squad could be as intimidating in clean, white jerseys. Hopefully, intramural sports will not play in this synthetic turf field. If they are used for IM's the school better have trainers working overtime, treating all the scrapes, cuts and bruises that are so common with turf. In time, the soccer and lacrosse teams may even wish to return to that natural green stuff. Soccer especially, will notice a dramatic change in the nature of the game itself. I feel that it is a unfortunate that the turf is being put in just at the time when synthetic turf's safety and its supposed long-lasting features and economic benefits are being questioned.

And now for *The Testa Call of the Week*. As all you professional baseball fans know the New York Mets are in front of the St. Louis Cardinals by one game in the N.L. East (at the time of this printing). The Mets' crosstown rivals, the New York Yankees, are doing battle with the Toronto Blue Jays in the A.L. East. They are currently 1½ games out of first place, but are now in a crucial series with the Jays. Visions of a Subway Series have danced through my head ever since the Yanks traded for Rickey Henderson in the off-season. Since this may be my last chance to predict a Subway series in print, I'm going to call it right here. If either team makes it even to the divisional playoffs, there will be a lot of neglected books and maybe even an interruption in this column, if a roadtrip is made to see the teams in person. Good luck to both teams down the stretch.

Women's soccer changes tactics

by Brooks Donnelly

On Wednesday, September 4, the women's varsity soccer team scrimmaged Herkimer County Community College. Although the score ended in Herkimer's favor, 2-1, important changes were tested by Hamilton. Coach Savitz had a chance to watch her players work together in a new system called "The Irish Flair." Unlike the conventional 3-3-4 or 4-3-3 setups, this new system does not have a set structure. The new setup utilizes, according to Coach Savitz, all of her players' talents to the fullest extent. This format is designed to promote interchange and flowing transitions among the players and especially between the backs and the forwards.

Last year the team had some problems working the ball forward in a smooth, controlled style. The hope that this new structure might facilitate a more controlled game seemed to be realized during the Herkimer scrimmage. The first two goals were scored against Hamilton during moments of confusion compounded by a lack of communication. Despite the lapses in the play, the new system worked well, utilizing the entire field and keeping the opposing team on the run. It looks as if this free flowing setup may provide the framework for a highly successful season.

The entire team got a chance to play in the scrimmage and each member played in more than one position. This may prove extremely beneficial as many members of the team are suffering from injuries. This past Saturday Hamilton traveled to play in a round-robin tournament with Ithaca, Cornell and Geneseo. Hamilton traveled with only twelve players due to the numerous injuries, and by the end of the day, Hamilton had to borrow players to continue playing.

Despite the injuries and the confusion involved in getting used to the "Irish Flair" system, the team has a cohesiveness that has been lacking in the past. Coach Savitz attributes this to the team's excursion through the Project Gain course. The entire team made it over the 12-foot wall which is quite a feat for any group. The best part of getting the team over the wall was, according to Savitz, their ability to avoid succumbing to the potential frustration of the wall. The rest of the course brought the team together in an atmosphere of support and collaboration that they are hopeful will carry over with the team onto the playing field.

This year, fourteen new students tried out for the less than six open spots on the team. Due to injuries and other reasons, eight new students made the team. The large number of new players adds another dimension to the group as a whole. With the leadership and experience of the seven veteran seniors, and the enthusiasm and talent of the rookies, Savitz hopes to have a well-balanced team. She commented that the near-even split of the team between new students and seniors should produce a solid team this year and even stronger teams in the future.

The women's varsity soccer team will end their pre-season Tuesday, September 17, at 4:00 pm on the Kirkland field with the team's season opener against LeMoyne.

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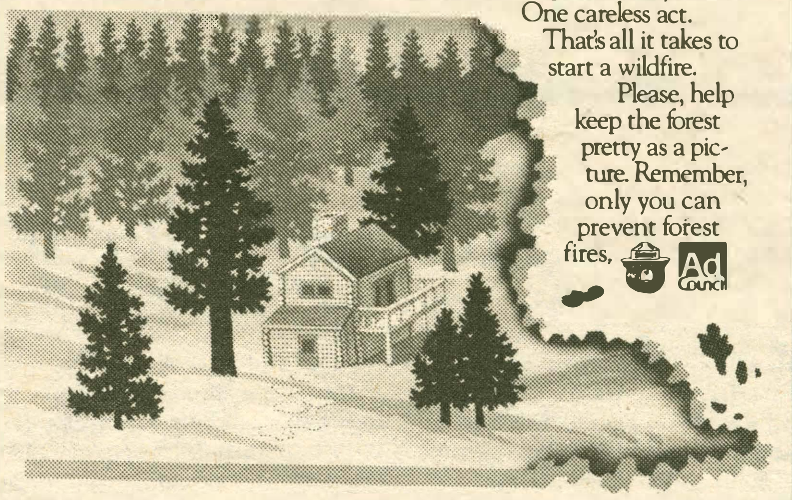

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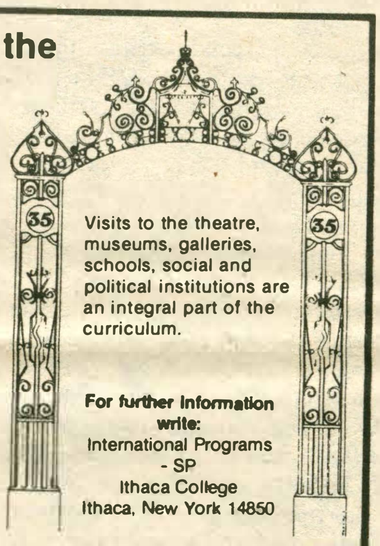

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Batt departs, Kerz is new Women's coach

by Betsy Wise

The women's varsity tennis team opens their season tomorrow against Clarkson here at 1:00 pm. Hamilton's team looks strong with eight returning players, including senior Diane Ghiron, who rejoins the team after a year's absence, while losing only three seniors from the starting lineup. The team also includes several freshmen players and is fortunate to work this year with new coach Nancy Kerz. Coach Gregory Batt, known as "the Dean of College Tennis," retired last year, after a long and successful career in the Hamilton College athletic department.

Although Nancy Kerz has worked with the team for less than a week, she has impressed the squad with her knowledge, intensity and efficiency in putting together a team of sixteen women. Kerz played collegiate tennis for three years, leading the SUNY Albany team at number singles. She is a local tournament player, ranking number one in the Utica area. During the summer season, she is involved in the Volvo league, sponsored by the United States Tennis Association. She has coached a coed high school team in Poland, New York, for eight years and also serves as chairperson of the boys' high school sectional competition. Her extensive experience will undoubtedly shape a successful lineup at Hamilton.

The two captains, Diane Ghiron and Amy Welles, combined with returning starters, Susanna Jacobus, Betsy Wise, and Kelly Lambert, should make a solid singles lineup with the help of first-year student Nina Ryder. The doubles lineup will be decided after the singles matches are played because of the coaches' option to repeat her starting singles players. Coach Kerz is confident about playing the remaining ten, who include Lise Christensen, Ann Crisp, Lisi de Bourbon, Lynne Degitz, Hilary Dunne, Patricia Dunne, Abby Farrington, Nancy Fey, Anne Ladd, and Jessica Rothenberg. Kerz says, "I would like to give all of these girls the opportunity to play in at least four matches, and I am very impressed with the depth in our squad."

The only disadvantage Kerz finds is that she did not have the opportunity to hold a pre-season workout. She expects that those of the people who are out of shape will run on their own, and that the drills she sets up in practice will condition the players as well. Kerz hopes to set up a summer training session next August, so that the women have a chance to get in shape before the season begins.

Kerz's immediate reaction to working with a women's team for the first time is a positive one. Comparing the high school boys with whom she has worked with the college women, Kerz says, "I saw the natural ability in the boys. However, they did not think while they played, nor did they have the patience to use any strategy. Fortunately, I see both natural talent and intelligence in all of these extremely athletic women. These women are very coachable and they identify weaknesses in their opponents well. It is a pleasure working with this level of play, and it is interesting to see the improvement in womens' tennis since I played collegiate tennis."

Captains Diane Ghiron and Amy Welles already see great improvement in Kerz's coaching ability. Ghiron, with three years of experience and an impressive second place finish in New York State under her belt, feels a great season coming on. In 1983, she was very successful in the state tournament after an overall disappointing season. At present, she is happy with the workouts and shares with the coach confidence in the depth of the entire team. "With enthusiasm," Ghiron says, "this year is going to be one of our best seasons."

Welles shares her co-captain's feeling about this year's season. She also feels that the coach will be successful in keeping the interest of all sixteen players because of the enthusiasm she maintains throughout her structured practices. Kerz is careful to give personal attention to everyone and lends very accurate criticism to their games. Welles emphasizes the importance of the support of the entire team, especially when matches are being played. She says, "Although tennis is an individual sport, the outcome should be shared by a team effort."

The team is looking to improve last year's 7-5 season. Coming off a disappointing state tournament, where they won a scant two rounds between the four individual competitors, the women's varsity tennis team is looking forward to a season of improvement. With the new coach, hard work, and support from their fans, the women's tennis team can expect to improve its past record significantly.

photo / Mary Colella

Kerz lectures two players

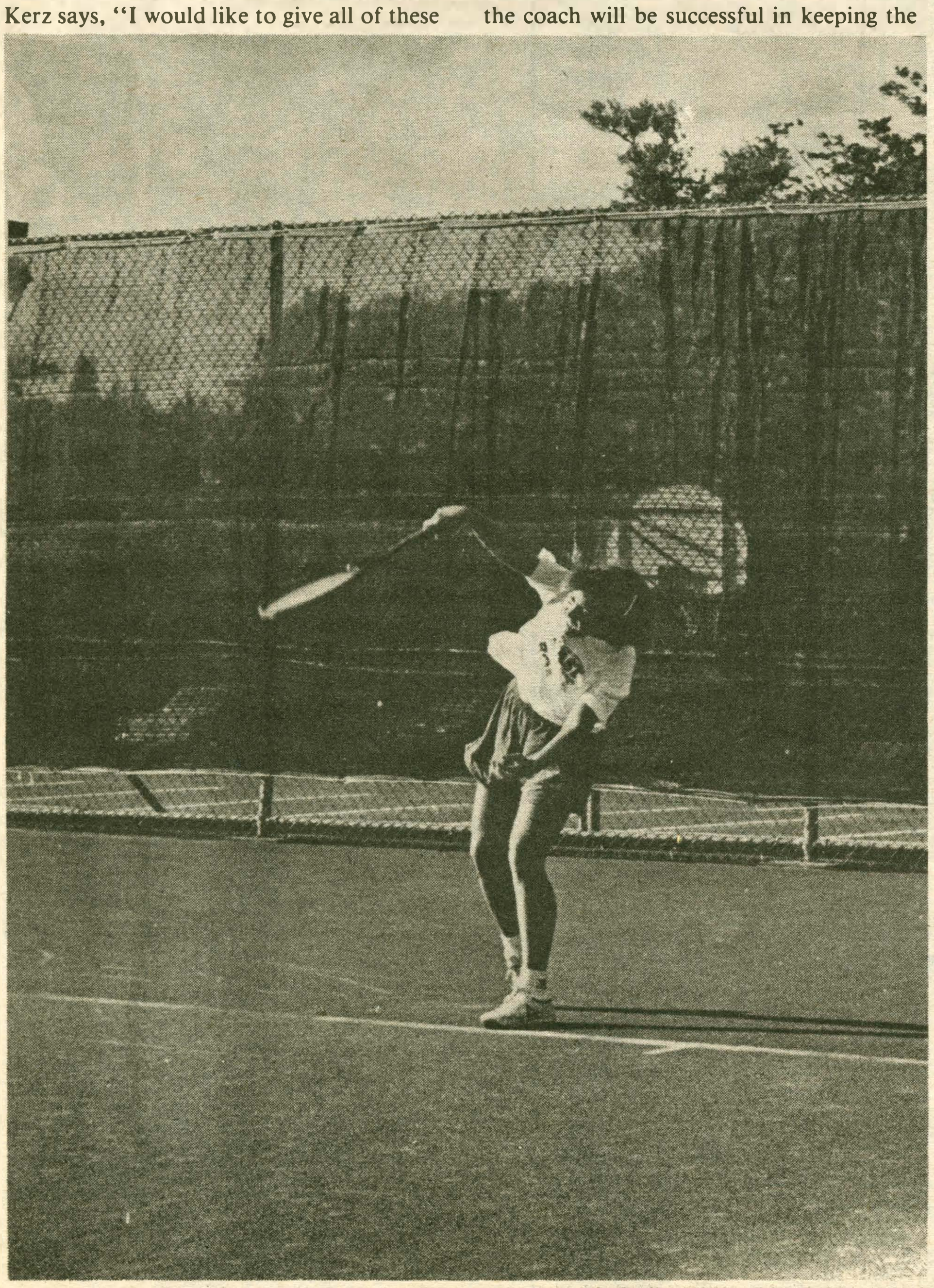
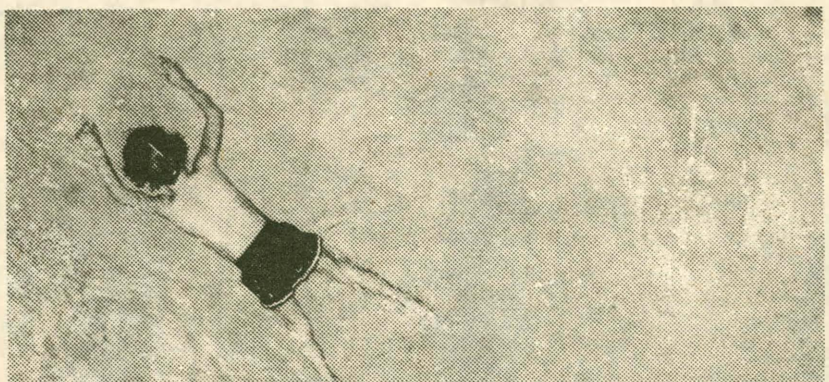


photo / Mary Colella

Susanna Jacobus hits serve



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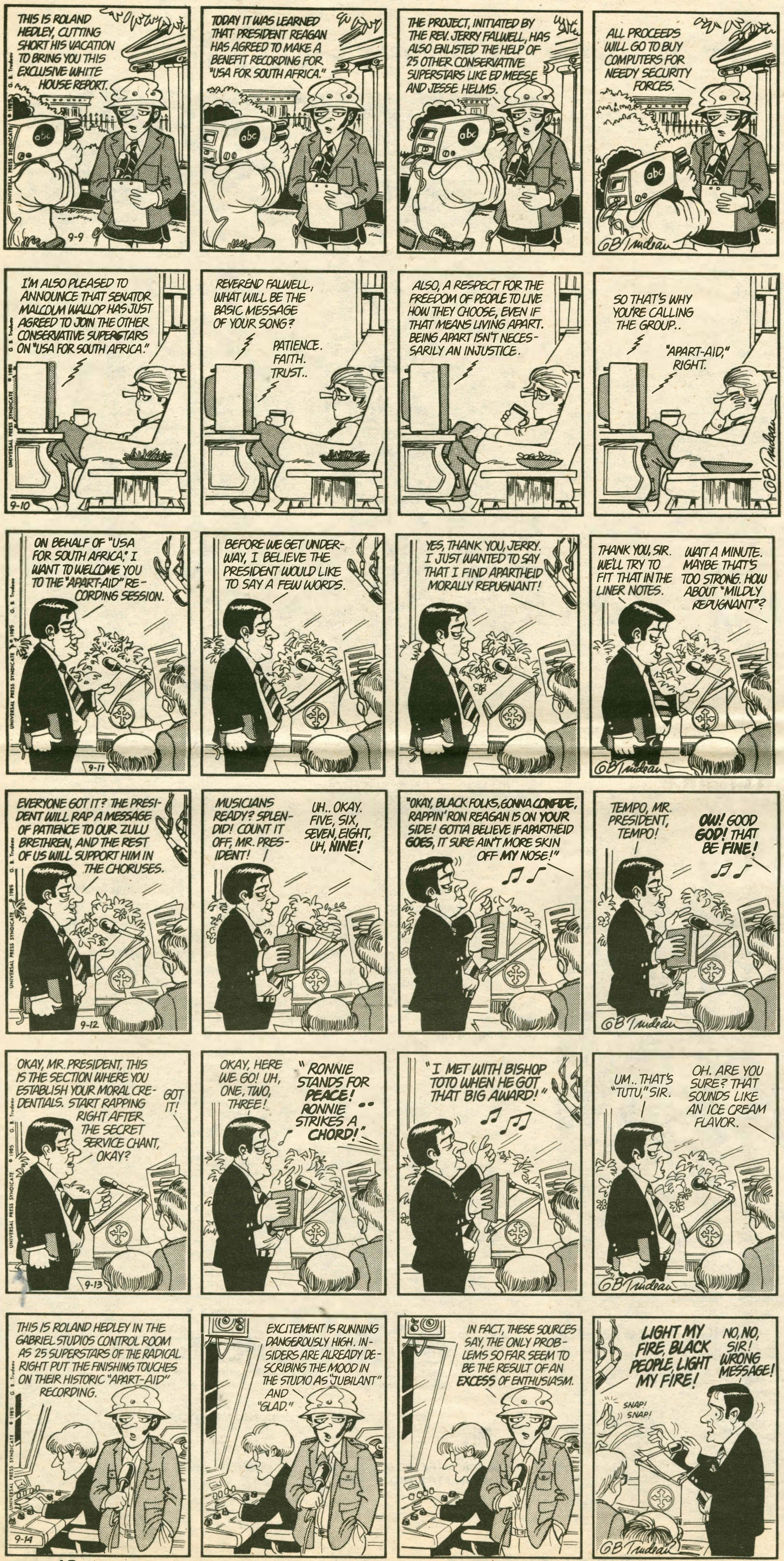


Personals

TZ,
Don't expect any more.
RB

Welcome Back Russ
The Spectator

Mrs. Selner,
Don't expect any more late night calls.
RB

CC,
Drop me a line.
RB

Claudia,
Where is your heart?
Andy

Jeanine,
Psssst!
Ken

Moo-
Smile! The moo-mobile will be well soon!
-moi

Happy Birthday
SARGM
from WHCL

To the Cookie Monster & the Hamburger,
Have fun in my homeland.
MC

E-
It's great to be back
KJA

J & D,
LOCK YOUR DOORS AT NIGHT!
Your "Sorority" Pal

Pam,
Can't wait to see you in October!
Drew

To Wiggles in Israel-
SHALOM! You're missed!
US

Letters

MsMagazine sparks review of fraternity system

To the Editor:

This afternoon while riding on the New York Subway, I was surprised to find myself reading about Hamilton College in this month's *Ms.* magazine: The article, as perhaps the Hill well knows, was about Fraternities. While I am not much older than current Hamilton students (H.C. '83) and am not purporting to be any wiser, I began thinking about fraternities at Hamilton and felt compelled to write this letter

First let me explain my history with fraternities at Hamilton. I went to fraternity parties from time to time and often enjoyed them. They gave me a chance to be with friends, meet people, dance, and have a drink. Some of my friends were members of fraternities and my father, uncle, and grandfather had all belonged to the same Hamilton fraternity. Certainly this was not an aspect of the College to which I was violently opposed.

However, my experiences in the houses were not all fun and games. I remember bringing my youngest sister who was visiting me to drop in on a house-party one weekend. A "brother" there, in his drunken stupor, grabbed her and kissed her very hard. She was fourteen years old and stunned and started to cry. The fall of my first year I went to a fraternity party to which I had received a coveted invitation. One of the members of the house asked me to go to his friend's (the one who had invited me) room. In my wide-eyed naivete (perhaps stupidity, I just didn't know better), I went. Once there he proceeded to offer me drugs and made unwelcome advances. I handled the situation in a way that would have made Ann Landers proud ("I don't know you real well," "I think I'm going upstairs" and blah, blah, blah), but I was shaken by the experience. While these incidents are not particularly dramatic or tragic, they were upsetting to me and my sister. They are even noteworthy instances because such behavior in fraternities seems to me to be common.

What do fraternities (or sororities for that matter) offer? Typical responses might be friendship, social opportunities, lasting bonds, and maybe better housing and food. I would like to suggest that really these advantages are not found inside, but outside, of the Greek sytem.

For starters, the rushing process is no less than cruel. Freshmen I knew were devastated because they did not receive that certain bid. Regarding parties, fraternities no longer control Hamilton social life. I saw a great change in my four years as a student. For example, my first year I was the IDC representative for my dorm. Our budget was exactly one hundred and forty-dollars. Now the dorm is allocated more that ten times that amount. One who likes to socialize need not only do this through fraternities. In terms of living conditions, what is so enviable about being responsible for the clean-up after the house has been "trashed" or eating with the same people of the same sex at virtually every meal? Add to this the substantial social fees which Greek members pay, and I become baffled as to why people join. Yet beyond this, and most importantly, I have seen the fraternity atmosphere promote harmful use of drugs and alcohol and abusive attitudes toward women.

Now that the fall semester is just beginning, I know that the social life is gearing up I would urge H.C. students, especially those incoming, not to fall into the frat rut. I am not preaching that the houses be avoided at all costs, yet I as strongly encouraging people to open-mindedly explore the many social opportunities available. Obviously you must decide what is right for you. But looking back I can only conclude that I think fraternities are dangerous institutions which foster elitism and sexism.

Julie Parker '83

Class identity for late Seniors

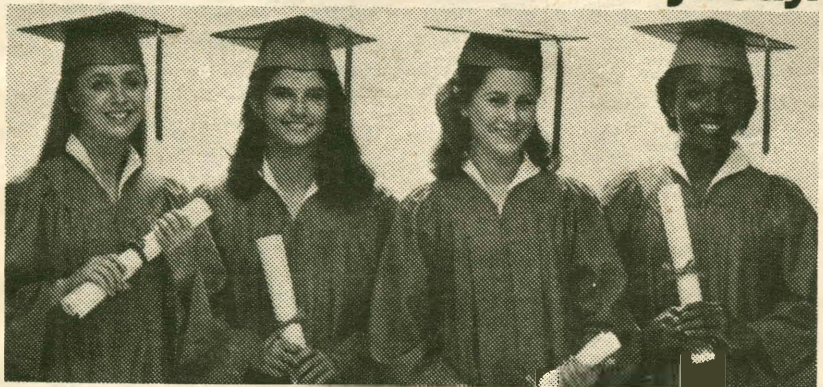
To the editor:

I am concerned about the college's policy towards seniors who do not graduate on time. It's my understanding that those seniors automatically become members of the following class. For example, those seniors who did not graduate last year (approximately seven people) now belong to the class of 1986. This, by itself, makes sense. What bothers me are the problems accompanying this change in class year. They are asked to graduate the following spring (spring of 1986), they will be asked to contribute their money to the class of 1986-not their original class, and they will be asked to attend the reunions of a class that is not thier own. Why cannot the seniors who completed their requirements after May of '85 at least retain some of their class identity by being allowed to return to Hamilton in future years with their true class, the class of 1985? The current practices erase their names from C&D's class of 1985 files, thereby depriving them of receiving notices aimed at their class & taking them off the mailing list of people to get their senior year's Yearbook. If they complete almost all of their graduation requirements but, for one reason or another, do not actually graduate, why cannot they at least be acknowledged as having "degrees in progress," as many colleges do, and retain at least part of their class identity. Even if their diploma has to read "1986". I feel that they should at least be allowed to be recognized as having been a member of the class of 1985--with all due privileges. I would welcome a response from the administration.

-Brooks Donnelly '86

Letters must be received no later than 5 pm the Monday before publication. All letters must be signed, typewritten, doublespaced and not exceeding 300 words. The Spectator does not guarantee that all letters will be printed. Names will be witheld from signed letters upon request. No anonymous letters will be printed.

Everybody deserves a chance to make it on their own. Everybody.



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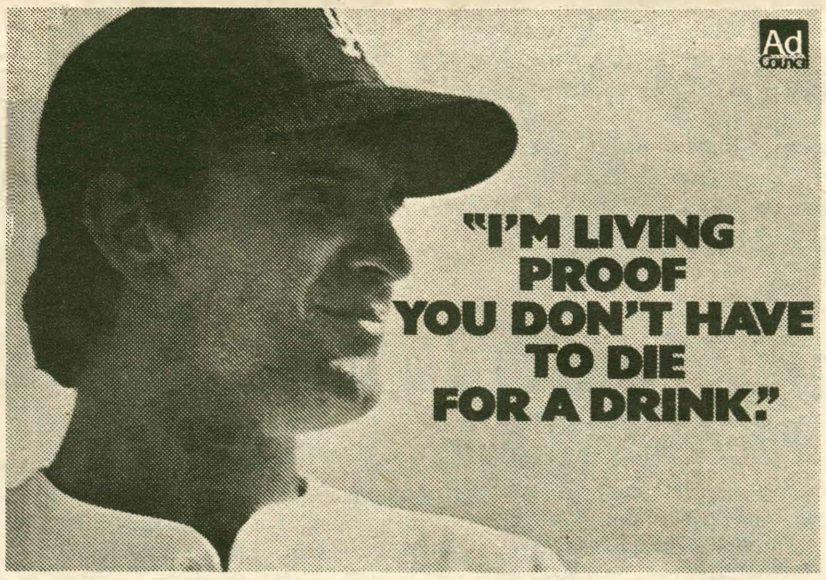

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Column debut: Life to 120

Andrea L. Brand M.D.

"Life to 120" is a regular medical column by Andrea L. Brand, M.D., originating in THE CLINTON COURIER. It addresses topical issues in health care, including preventive medicine, advances in detection and treatment of disease, nutrition, and lifestyle in relation to health. Its goal is a readership who enjoys life and asks enlightening questions about health care. Questions are welcome and should be addressed to:

Andrea L. Brand, M.D.
c/o The Clinton Courier
College Street
Clinton, NY 13323

My first installment of "Life to 120" introduces me and the column that offers an opportunity to learn about your body, mind, and care of the gift of life.

First, a synopsis of my training and experience. After earning the Doctor of Medicine from University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center, I completed a medical internship at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore and a residency in Family Practice at Southside Hospital in Bay Shore, New York (an affiliate of SUNY Stony Brook). I am certified by the American Board of Family Practice, a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and a Diplomate for the National Board of Medical Examiners. I practiced Family Medicine in East Hampton, New York, and served as Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Practice at East Carolina University School of Medicine where I taught medical students and residents in Family Practice. Currently, I am Medical Director of Hamilton College in Clinton, New York.

Second, an understanding of my column, "Life to 120" concerns itself less with the length of life than with the quality of it, hoping that we can enrich our lives by understanding ourselves—our bodies and minds, their relation to each other and to the environment, how our lifestyles might affect our well-being, and how we can live healthfully in the span of our lives.

In a society so concerned with youthful appearances, it is a paradox that the fastest growing segment of out population is over 60. With the prospect of longer life ahead of us, the great challenge becomes not to forestall an end by gradual deterioration, but to savour each moment of healthy life. Our hope is not solely a long life, but a full one, enjoyed in vigorous health. To this wish in us, I address my column and offer the knowledge that medicine has to share. And in thanks for the gift of life I dedicate it recalling the description in Deuteronomy of the life of Moses:

"And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated."

Campus changes jolt ex-expatriates

Mark Schwendler and Scott Goldfinger

Returning to the Hill after spending part of our junior years abroad, we have noticed a few significant changes from the Hamilton we left behind. We will mention only a few.

The first task facing many upperclassmen arriving on the hill is car registration. Unfortunately, this year the task did not proceed as smoothly as in past years. We had expected only a five dollar registration fee, and were therefore shocked to discover a 600 percent increase in the fee to thirty dollars.

We could understand such an increase in Brazil or Israel where triple digit inflation has become the norm, but as far as we know the United States is now experiencing its lowest inflation in twenty years. If the administration employs a similar method to calculate tuition increase for the coming year, we can all expect a tuition bill of some 78,000 dollars, a commensurate 600 percent increase.

In all fairness, there is talk that the dramatic increase in the registration fee has been levied to act as a deterrent to students bringing cars to campus in an attempt to reduce the total number of cars at Hamilton. If this is true, we consider the strategy ineffective since no student, as far as we know, was informed of the change before arriving on campus. As a result each student who brought a car to Hamilton had no choice but to pay the increased fee.

As well, we have discovered ... sophomores are only permitted to park in certain lots, those being the ones furthest from the center of campus. It is rumored however that the administration sympathizes with those students who must now walk further to their cars than to town and therefore will soon be providing a jitney bus service to shuttle students throughout all the parking lots. We applaud such a move by the administration.

Changes have also been made in the academic realm. We were shocked to learn that the pass/fail option has been replaced by the credit/no credit option. In the past students would receive a pass or fail without the grade being averaged into their GPA. Now students receive a credit for grades of a C- or better, no credit for passing grades below a C-, or a failing grade which is then averaged into their GPA.

There is no intrinsic advantage in taking a course under the credit/no credit option. Under the option, students receiving good grades would receive credit, but not the grade. Students passing with poor grades would not receive credit, although had they taken the course for a grade they would have at least received credit for taking the course. Those students failing a course would now have that failing grade averaged into their GPA, the same circumstance had they taken the course for a grade. Thus, the new system embodies the disadvantages of taking a course for a grade and none of the advantages of the old pass/fail system.

We envision a forthcoming replacement to the credit/no credit option which would be the straight fail option wherein students can elect to fail a course if they so choose. We can imagine a conversation between a student and the registrar.

Student: Excuse me, I'd like to take a course to fail please.

Registrar: I'm sorry, you missed the fail deadline; you'll have to pass this time around.

Student: But I can't pass, my GPA's too high ; everyone will think I'm a tool.

Can Hamilton contribute to peace on Earth?

Paul Ngobeni and Scott Bonavich

Contrary to *Time* and *Newsweek* stereotypes, American campuses have not been seas of political docility in the recent period. Although still on a relatively small scale, cores of campus activists have spawned waves of involvement and increased political awareness. Students have taken up issues ranging from the draft and militarism, nuclear power, CIA recruitment on campuses, racism, women's rights and El Salvador, to name just a few. Here at Hamilton, the college administration has found itself under intense student pressure to institute minority studies programme and withdraw its investments from companies profiting from the apartheid system in South Africa. It is HOPE's hope that this year, socially conscious students and faculty will continue to raise more issues of social relevance.

We do acknowledge that no single issue or focus alone embodies the student movement as during the Vietnam era. In our times, campus activists must of necessity work around a multitude of issues, each representing components of a diverse and dynamic movement. Three main organizational trends can be identified in general. One trend consists of campus groups that concentrate their efforts on a single isue such as the draft, women's issues, or nuclear power etc. A second trend has been those groups that represent a particular section of the Student body such as the Black, Latino, and Asian student unions etc. These groups have been effective in opposing discrimination on campus and are by definition contributing to peace on earth. The third trend has been the formation of political groups that have a multi-issue focus. They usually consist of students who have had experience organizing around particular issues and who see the need for unity among progressives on campus in the form of a regular meeting body.

It is fairly accurate to say that HOPE developed out of the unity built among these three tendencies. As different groups increased their contacts with eachother on campus and at demonstrations, it was felt that the need for more coordination and communication among the various parts of the movement was greater than ever before.

HOPE is based on a pluralistic approach that acknowledges the contributions of many different ideologies and perspectives. By striving for unity and focusing on the specific issues and practical program we can avoid being enmeshed in internal bickering and endless ideological debates that can only serve reactionary charlatans and demagogues. By adopting a collective-leadership approach we hope to encourage active participation of all members in the policy and decision-making process and avoid bureaucratic paralysis.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

As students and youth working for progressive social change, we must attempt to address the burning questions of our time in a coherent and responsible way.

We can and must oppose the arms race between the Soviet union and the United States which threatens the very existence of life on our planet. As we all know Reagan has now sought to upset the military parity between the superpowers by turning outerspace into a nuclear battleground. (This is precisely what the "Star Wars" project is all about.)What is more disconcerting the conflict between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. has been transferred from a political to a religious plane. Conservatives and right-wing reactionaries of all hues have organized themselves into a well-orchestrated choir, unfortunately conducted by Jerry Fallwell, chanting that the West need to be protected from "the bad guys." Towards this end, the U.S.S.R. has already been outlawed. The Soviet Union is proclaimed--to quote President Reagan "the focus of evil in the modern world"-- an evil empire that must be consigned to the ashheap of history. It is frightening to think that these demagogues may be tempted to execute the "holy war against communism" to its bitter end.

We must and can support world peace, non interventionism, and independence for all nations. We support an international system based upon justice, peace and the equality of all nations. We support self-determination for all peoples, especially those in imperialist-dominated nations of Afghanistan, Africa and Latin America. In particular, we must oppose the U.S. government's collaboration with obsolescent, repressive and racist regimes such as South Africa, El Salvador, and the Phillipines.

We must and can support the struggles of working people and the labor movement. We genuinely believe that the right of workers to organize themselves into unions is inalienable. Therefore; we oppose all efforts by corporations to drive down the living and wage standard of all workers, and in particular their union-busting manouvres.

We support the struggles of Latinos, Asian-Americans, and Native Americans and African-Americans for equality. In particular, we must oppose the resurgence of racist violence, police brutality against racial minorities, the racist immigration policies used to persecute and harass millions of Latino people.

The above statement is not in any way designed to limit the issues we take up. As more and more students join HOPE, we shall deepen our analysis and understanding of other issues as we gain experience in the struggles around them. Anyone interested in HOPE's meetings, newsletters, etc. should contact Paul Ngobeni or Stephen Bonovich through campus mail.

LET US ALL BE INVOLVED.

Editorial

How will we discriminate?

This fall Hamilton College has made a slight legalistic, yet potentially profound, alteration in its Equal Opportunity policy statement.

The old policy statement reads as follows: ''Hamilton College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, handicap, national or ethnic origin in admission employment, or in the administration of any program or policy.'' On the recommendation of Hamilton's legal counsel, the new statement has been altered to read: ''Hamilton College does not ***Illegally*** discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, age, handicap, national or ethnic origin in admission...etcetera verbetum.'' This legal alteration raises ethical as well as legal questions. What is ''legal'' discrimination against race, sex, age, or handicap? What are the boundaries of unlawful discrimination as defined by the law? Does this slight change in the policy statement open the door for ''legal'' discrimination on the basis of sexual preference? Or is it a legal move in order to activate a more aggressive (and sorely needed) affirmative action program in admissions? The scope and direction of this legalistic wording not only could, but undoubtedly will have far reaching implications for future classes of Hamilton students.

The Spectator feels it is important for the college to openly justify the legal reasoning behind the change as well as publicly state the progressive or conservative direction the alteration predicts.

The meaning of the alteration is ambiguous: will the change bring about increased discrimination of minorities or will it open the way for an increased influx of minority students? A statement from the Administration with regards to the subject is needed.

''21''

The buzzword around campus is ''21''. Usually affixed to it are questions like ''Will I still be able to drink, though I'm illegal?'' or ''Will fraternity/sorority memberships skyrocket in the coming years?'' or ''Will the College *ever*turn the Bristol Hub into a place where people will actually want to go?'' Variations on the same theme abound: How can I still have fun at Hamilton when 75 percent of the people won't be able to drink under the law? Although the issue is significant (and in many ways unfair) to those who won't be able to drink, the issue of greater significance rests in the hands of those who *will*be able to purchase alcohol.

Many upper-class students will be faced with a peculiar dilemma: do I serve or buy beer for my friends who happen to be minors ¢ even though they may have been drinking legally for years? Prudence would advise against it (after all, it is a *criminal*offense for the adult to give liquor to a minor ¢ not for the minor to drink it). But we all know that reason doesn't always dictate action.

We don't feel it is our position to tell people how they should respond to the new laws. There are plenty of rules, procedures, penalties and regulations circulating around campus to guarantee that everyone has the opportunity to make an informed choice. The campus fraternities and sororities will have to reasses their roles in the community, look at the whole picture, weigh the pros and cons, and then decide how to view the law ¢ comply or defy.

This issue will undoubtedly come up again in these pages over the next few weeks and months. Let's use this time to cultivate opinions for the intelligent choice we all have to make come December first.

Andrew O. McKee, editor-in-chief
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Events

Saturday, September 14

- 11:00 am. Men's Soccer vs. SUNY Utica. Home
- 1:00 pm. Women's Tennis vs. Clarkson. Home
- 1:00pm. Field Hockey vs. Rochester. Home
- 1:00 pm. Women's Cross Country vs. Rochester. Home.
- 1:30 pm. Men's Cross Country vs. Rochester. Home.
- 6:30 pm. Newman Mass. Father John Croghan. Kirner-Johnson Red Pit (Room 109)
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Samuel Kirkland Film Society presents: **To Catch a Thief.** Science Auditorium.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Foreign and Fine Film Society presents: **The Sting.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.

Sunday, September 15

- 1:00 pm. Newman Mass. Father John Croghan. Chapel.
- 4:00 pm. Women's Film Society Presents: **Coal Miner's Daughter.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.
- 5:00 pm. Chapel Service. Rev. Laurie Kraus-Neale. Chapel.
- 7:00 Rosh Hashanah New Year's Service led by Professor Heidi Ravven. Chapel. (Kiddush to follow, Bristol Campus Center Dwight Lounge.)
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Samuel Kirkland Film Society presents: **To Catch a Thief.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Foreign and Fine Film Society presents: **The Sting.** Science Auditorium.

Monday, September 15

- 10:00 am.-1:00 pm. Rosh Hashanah New Year's service led by Heidi Ravven. Chapel.
- 7:00 pm. Women's Film Society presents: **Coal Miner's Daughter.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.
- 8:30 pm. Sigma Xi Lecture Series. Richard Underwood, Photography Consultant, "Space Photography." Science Auditorium.

Tuesday, September 17

- 12:00 noon. Newman Mass. Father John Croghan. Chapel
- 1:00 Men's Golf at Elmira Tourney.
- 4:00 Men's Soccer vs. Clarkson. Home.
- 4:00 pm. Women's Soccer vs. LeMoyne. Home.
- 4:00 pm. Women's Cross Country vs. Albany. Home.
- 4:30 pm. Alumni Career Exploration Program Meeting sponsored by the Career Center. Kirner-Johnson Red Pit (Room 109)
- 7:00 pm. Women's Film Society Presents: **Coal Miner's Daughter.** Science Auditorium.

Wednesday, September 18

- 12 noon Newman Mass. Father John Croghan. Chapel.
- 3:30 pm. Women's Tennis at Hartwick.
- 7:30 pm. Senior Starter Workshop sponsored by the Career Center. Kirner-Johnson Red Pit. (Room 109)
- 8:00 pm. Information Meeting of Foreign Fellowship Opportunities for Seniors. Bristol Campus Center. Dwight Lounge.
- 10:00 pm. Wednesday Night Live is at the HUB featuring Barry Commons, comedy. Bristol Campus Center.

Thursday, September 19

- 9:00 am. - 5:00 pm. Art Exhibition and Sale. Imaginus Incorporated. McEwen Coffeehouse.
- 12:00 Noon. Newman Mass. Father John Croghan. Chapel.
- 4:00 pm. Women's Soccer at Skidmore.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Samuel Kirkland Film Society Presents: **Missing** Science Auditorium.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Foreign and Fine Film Society presents: **To Kill a Mockingbird.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.

Friday, September 20

- Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference (see end of listing).
- 9:00 am. - 5:00 pm. Art Exhibition and Sale. Imaginus Incorporated. McEwen Coffeehouse.
- 9:30 am. Men's Golf at Skidmore Tourney.
- 4:15 pm. Hillel Friday Night Jewish Services followed by Israel and Jewish Issues Discussion. Bristol Campus Center North Lounge.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Samuel Kirkland Film Society presents: **Missing.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.
- Foreign and Fine Film Society presents: **To Kill a Mockingbird.** Science Auditorium.

Saturday, September 21

- Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference (see end of listing.)
- 12:00 Noon. Field Hockey vs. William Smith.
- 12:00 Noon. Women's Tennis at William Smith
- 1:00 pm. Women's Volleyball vs. Sage at Oswego.
- 1:00 pm. Women's Cross-Country at Williams Invitational.
- 1:00 pm. Men's Cross Country vs. St. Lawrence at RPI.
- 2:00 pm. Men's Soccer at Vassar.
- 6:30 pm. Newman Mass. Father John Croghan. Kirner-Johnson Red Pit (Room 109).
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Samuel Kirkland Film Society presents: **Missing.** Science Auditorium.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Foreign and Fine Film Society presents: **To Kill a Mockingbird.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.

Sunday, September 22

- 1:00 pm. Newman Mass. Father John Croghan. Chapel.
- 5:00 pm. Chapel Service. Rev. Laurie Kraus-Neale. Chapel.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Samuel Kirkland Film Society presents: **Missing.** Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm. Foreign and Fine Film Society Presents: **To Kill A Mockingbird.** Science Auditorium.

Miscellaneous

- PAID OPENINGS: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT. The Office of Communications and Development is accepting applications for student intern positions for the 1985-1986 academic year in the following areas: Alumni Affairs; 175th Anniversary Campaign; Publications. The successful candidates will demonstrate strong writing and organizational skills and a high degree of accuracy in working with details; must have an effective phone manner; must be deadline-oriented; and must work well with a variety of people. If you are interested in one of these positions, please apply in writing stating job preference to A. Dean Abelon, Office of Communications and Development, by September 20.
- To: The College Community. From: Dan O'Leary. I advise you that, acting on the recommendation of the 1984-85 Board, the following people have been appointed to the Sexual Harassment Grievance Board for 1985-86: Courtney Brown (Student, Class of 1986); Amy Gervasio (Psychology Department); Jim Hart (Physical Plant) and Sam Pellman (Music Department). In addition to them, Chris Blum (Student, Class of 1986), Jennifer Potter Hayes (Registrar), Jackie Sfeir (associate Dean of the College Office), and Fred Wagnar (English Department), all of whom were appointed to the Board for a two-year term, will continue to serve on the Board. These are the people to whom you should turn if you have a question about the College's Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures or if you believe you have been harassed.
- There will be a meeting at 8:00 pm. on Thursday September 19 in the Dwight Lounge of Bristol to provide information to students interested in studying abroad next year.
- Winter Term in Paris and Madrid (French 160 and Spanish 160): important general information meetings, October 2, 8:00 pm., Johnson 222 and 225.
- Hamilton Programs Abroad: important, general informational meetings for those interested in the Junior Year in France (for 1986-1987) or the Academic year in Spain (for Spring, 1986 or 1986-87), October 9, 8:00 pm., Johnson 222 and 225.